

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1275

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CI VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELA TO RECOGNIZE NEW CHILEAN GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT CALDERA HAS IMPLIED THE GOV WILL RECOGNIZE THE NEW CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, DESPITE A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION TO THE CONTRARY, CITING THE CONCEPT OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM AND THE NEED FOR THE GOV TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS IN CHILE. END SUMMARY

1. IN HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE HELD SEPTEMBER 20 PRESIDENT CALDERA STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT VENEZUELA WILL RECOGNIZE THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN CHILE. STATING THAT GOV HAD BEEN "EXCHANGING IDEAS WITH THE ANDEAN AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND THAT THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO APPLY THE CONCEPT OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM," CALDERA SAID THAT RECOGNITION OF THE NEW CHILEAN GOVERNMENT "IS NOT A QUESTION OF IDEOLOGY BUT OF REALITY WHICH GOVERNMENTS CANNOT HELP BUT FACE." NOTING THAT ARGENTINA AND PERU HAD DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, CALDERA DECLARED "THERE IS A UNANIMOUS NATIONAL CONSENSUS THAT THE 'BETANCOURT DOCTRINE' DID NOT PROVIDE THE RESULTS WHICH WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPECTED." AND AFFIRMED THAT "THE NEED EXISTS TO MAINTAIN AND

STRENGTHEN THE LINKS BETWEEN OUR NATIONS." (AD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ HAS ALREADY STATED THAT, IF ELECTED, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT APPLY THE 'BETANCOURT DOCTRINE'.)

2. REFERRING TO THE RESOLUTION VOTED SEPT 19 BY THE DELEGATED COMMITTEE REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL CONGRESS (NOW OUT OF SESSION) THAT THE GOV NOT RECOGNIZE THE CHILEAN MILITARY REGIME - IN WHICH COPEI ABSTAINED FROM VOTING - CALDERA STATED THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION, TANTAMOUNT TO "RESURRECTION OF THE 'BETANCOURT DOCTRINE'", HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT IT WAS HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE FINAL DECISIONS IN MATTERS OF THIS SORT.

3. CALDERA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT PRIMARY CONCERN WITH CHILE IS TO PROTECT VENEZUELANS IN CHILE AS WELL AS THOSE SEEKING THE PROTECTION OF THE GOV IN THAT COUNTRY. CALDERA INDICATED THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS VENEZUELA CANNOT AFFORD TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH CHILE. CALDERA POINTED OUT THAT A VENEZUELAN MILITARY AIRPLANE HAD ALREADY REPATRIATED A NUMBER OF VENEZUELANS FROM CHILE AND THAT THIS AIRLIFT WAS CONTINUING. (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS A LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE VENEZUELANS RETURNING FROM CHILE ARE BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY FOR QUESTIONING UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN VENEZUELA.)

4. CALDERA ALSO REFERRED TO THE SPORADIC LEFTIST DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW WHICH HAVE BEEN OCCURRING IN VENEZUELA AS "AN EMOTIONAL REACTION PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES," BUT CALLED FOR "ALL POLITICAL SECTORS TO ANALYZE THE MATTER WITH THE SAME SERENITY AS THE GOVERNMENT." (A STUDENT "SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE" DEMONSTRATION IN DOWNTOWN CARACAS ON SEPT 20 WAS BROKEN UP BY POLICE WHEN THE DEMONSTRATORS SOUGHT TO FORCE ENTRY INTO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.)
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